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October 1, 2003  
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
OKLAHOMA Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
GROCERS  
ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 50221

25 N.E. 52nd Street Washington, DC 20091-0221  
P.O. Box 18716  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154 Dear Sir or Madam:

405/525-9419 - 800/580-9400

Fax: 405/525-0962 As the President of the Oklahoma Grocers Association, the state-wide trade association representing supermarkets, convenience stores, and their suppliers, I am  
JIM HOPPER

President & CEO writing to express my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and TobaccoTax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. (200 1R-1 36P)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We believe the TTB 's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol  
CHMR MAN  
KARL WILLEY beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace. Further, we  
Karl's Apple Markets believe the debate surrounding the proposed standard poses important issues for the  
Caidwell, KS stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

#### CHAIRMAN-ELECT

DANNY BOYLE  
CountryBoy/Hometown Market With our support for the proposed 0.5% standard, we are joining The Beer Institute,  
Midwest City the National Beer Wholesalers Association, and major small brewer associations,  
TREASURER among many others, because this standard is the most efficient means to address  
STEVE JAMES recent concerns by both federal and state officials. If adopted, the standard will  
Jack Griffith's Gas Up maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations for consistent  
Stillwater

PAST CHAIRMAN products, and help sustain the long-term development of the product category. In  
KIM ESKEW addition, these reformulated products will be consistent with state tax, license, and  
Harp's Food Stores distribution laws allowing wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and  
Springdale, AR market flavored malt beverages as they do today.

#### DIRECTORS

STEVE ARNOLD However, absent a national standard rooted in existing law and regulation,  
Associated Wholesale Grocers, OKC manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers will face a potential for a patchwork  
of

TED BARLOWS individual state laws and regulations where the same product may ultimately be sold  
Hiland Dairy, Norman as a "beer" in one state and as a "distilled spirits" in another.

RAY BECERRA

Mega Supply, Okla. City Finally, while there are some who have concerns regarding the ability of

manufacturers to produce FMB products in accordance with the new proposal, as

HANK BINKOWSKI you may know, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical

Buy For Less, Okla. City ability to brew these products under the new federal standard. The FMB products

BOB EDGMON that look and taste the same will be available to wholesalers and retailers in all states

Eufaula Food Market, Eufaula with no interruption and no discernable taste differences for consumers.

MARK FORMBY

Formby Foods, Inc., Pawhuska Thank you for this opportunity for our association to offer our support for the

BRIAN HONEL current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages.

Foodworld Discount, Tulsa

John KAPLAN Sincerely,

Fleming, Tulsa

JIM MILLS

Snyder's, Edinond

Jim Hopper

BILL STARR

United Supermarkets, Altus President & CEO

MIKE THORNERUGH m/ko

QuikTrip, Inc., Tulsa

JEFF WILLIAMS

Wenjest Corp., Okla. City